Import of Foodgrains

1721. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import foodgrains during the current year;

(b) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government is keeping open the option to import wheat and rice as and when considered necessary. It is also proposed that maize be imported on gift and commercial basis by the nominated agencies. Pulses are allowed for imports freely by all, subject to registration of contracts with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). NAFED and STC would also import pulses; NAFED has already imported approximately 29,995 MTs while STC has imported (till 23-2-88) 12,500 MTs.

Transport of Fodder in Rajasthan

1722. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of fodder for cattle in the drought-stricken parts of Rajasthan;

(b) whether a gift of fodder received from farmers of Meerut district for the benefit of the droght-stricken areas in Rajasthan has remained unutilised due to lack of transport facilities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for transportation of the fodder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) There is shortage of fodder in the drought-affected areas of Rajasthan.

(b) No such gift was received by the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Strike decision by the Joint Trade Union Action Committee in Coal Industry

1723. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the joint trade union action committee in coal industry has decided for a six day strike from 15th March, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The joint convention of coal unions (AITUC, CITU, BMS & HMS) held at Calcutta on 20-1-88 decided to call a strike in all the coal-mines from 15-3-88 to 22-3-88. The demands include implementation of non-implemented clauses of the National Coal Wage Agreement-III, implementation of the pension scheme for all coal-miners w.e.f. 1-4-1987 as per decision of the Joint Bi-partite Committee for Coal Industry, early settlement of charter of demands, and abolition of contract system in all coal-mines and regularisation of all contract workers, etc.

Provision of Houses to Workers from out of their contribution to Provident Fund

1724. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: